NUMB. CXXVII.

The SPECTATOR.

——Quantum eſt in rebus Inane? Perſ.

Thurſday, July 26. 1711.

IT is our Cuſtom at Sir ROGER'S, upon the coming in of the Poſt to ſit about a Pot of Coffee, and hear the old Knight read *Dyer*'s Letter, which he does with his Spectacles upon his Noſe, and in an audible Voice, ſmiling very often at thoſe little ſtrokes of Satyr which are eminent in the Writings of that Author. I afterwards communicate to the Knight ſuch Packets as I receive under the Quality of SPECTATOR. The following Letter chancing to pleaſe him more than ordinary, I ſhall publiſh it at his Requeſt.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'YOU have diverted the Town almoſt a whole 'Month at the Expence of the Country, it 'is now high time that you ſhould give the Country their Revenge. Since your withdrawing from 'this Place, the fair Sex are run into great Extra'vagancies. Their Petticoats, which began to heave 'and ſwell before you left us, are now blown up 'into a moſt enormous Concave, and riſe every 'Day more and more: In a Word, Sir, ſince our 'Women know themſelves to be out of the Eye 'of the SPECTATOR, they will be kept within 'no Compaſs. You praiſed them a little too ſoon, 'for the Modeſty of their Head-dreſſes; For as the 'Humour of a Sick Perſon is often driven 'out of one Limb into another, their Superfluity of Ornaments, inſtead of being entirely 'baniſhed, ſeems only fallen from their Heads 'upon their lower Parts. What they have loſt in 'Height they make up in Breadth, and contrary to 'all Rules of Architecture widen the Foundations 'at the ſame time that they ſhorten the Superſtructure. Were they, like *Spaniſh* Jennits, to impregnate by the Wind, they could not have thought 'on a more proper Invention. But as we do not 'yet hear any particular Uſe in this Petticoat, or 'that it contains any thing more than what was 'ſuppoſed to be in thoſe of a Scantier Make, we 'are wonderfully at a loſs about it.

'The Women give out, in Defence of theſe 'wide Bottoms, that they are Airy, and very pro'per for the Seaſon; but this I look upon to be 'only a Pretence, and a piece of Art, for it is well 'known we have not had a more moderate Sum'mer theſe many Years, ſo that it is certain the 'Heat they complain of cannot be in the Weather: 'Beſides, I would fain ask theſe tender-conſtitution'd 'Ladies, why they ſhould require more Cooling 'than their Mothers before them.

'I find ſeveral Speculative Perſons are of Opi'nion that our Sex has of late Years been very Sau'cy, and that the Hoop-Petticoat is made uſe of 'to keep us at a diſtance. It is moſt certain that 'a Woman's Honour cannot be better entrenched 'than after this manner, in Circle within Circle, a'midſt ſuch a Variety of Outworks and Lines of 'Circumvallation. A Female who is thus inveſt'ed in Whale-Bone is ſufficiently ſecured againſt 'the Approaches of an ill-bred Fellow, and might 'as well think of Sir *George Etheridge*'s way of 'making Love in a Tub, as in the midſt of ſo 'many Hoops.

'Among theſe various Conjectures, there are 'Men of Superſtitious Tempers, who look upon 'the Hoop-Petticoat as a kind of Prodigy. Some 'will have it that it portends the Downfall of the '*French* King, and obſerve that the Farthingale 'appeared in *England* a little before the Ruin of 'the *Spaniſh* Monarchy. Others are of Opinion 'that it foretells Battel and Bloodſhed, and believe 'it of the ſame Prognoſtication as the Tail of a 'Blazing Star. For my part, I am apt to think 'it is a Sign that Multitudes are coming into the 'World, rather than going out of it.

'The firſt time I ſaw a Lady dreſſed in one of 'theſe Petticoats, I could not forbear blaming her in 'my own Thoughts for walking abroad when ſhe 'was *ſo near her Time*, but ſoon recovered my 'ſelf out of my Errour, when I found all the Mo'diſh Part of the Sex as *far gone* as her ſelf. It is 'generally thought ſome crafty Women have thus

'betrayed

'betrayed their Companions into Hoops, that they 'might make them acceſſary to their own Conceal-'ments, and by that means eſcape the Cenſure of 'the World, as wary Generals have ſometimes 'dreſſed two or three dozen of their Friends in 'their own Habit, that they might not draw upon 'themſelves any particular Attacks from the Ene-'my. The ſtrutting Petticoat ſmoothes all Diſtinctions, levels the Mother with the Daughter, and 'ſets Maids and Matrons, Wives and Widows, 'upon the ſame bottom. In the mean while, I 'cannot but be troubled to ſee ſo many well ſha-'ped innocent Virgins bloated up, and walking up 'and down like big-bellied Women.

'Should this Faſhion get among the ordinary 'People our publick Ways would be ſo crouded 'that we ſhould want Street-room. Several Con-'gregations of the beſt Faſhion find themſelves al-'ready very much ſtreightned, and if the Mode 'encreaſe I wiſh it may not drive many ordi-'nary Women into Meetings and Conventicles. 'Should our Sex at the ſame time take it into their 'Heads to wear Trunk Breeches (as who knows 'what their Indignation at this Female Treatment 'may drive them to) a Man and his Wife would 'fill a whole Pew.

'You know, Sir, it is recorded of *Alexander* the 'Great, that in his *Indian* Expedition he buried ſe-'veral Suits of Armour which by his Directions were 'made much too big for any of his Soldiers, in or-'der to give Poſterity an extraordinary *Idea* of him, 'and make them believe he had commanded an 'Army of Giants. I am perſuaded that if one of 'the preſent Petticoats happens to be hung up in 'any Repoſitory of Curioſities, it will lead into the 'ſame Error the Generations that lie ſome Removes 'from us, unleſs we can believe our Poſterity will 'think ſo diſreſpectfully of their Great Grand-mo-'thers, that they made themſelves Monſtrous to 'appear Amiable.

'When I ſurvey this new-faſhioned *Rotonda* in 'all its Parts, I cannot but think of the old Philoſo-'pher, who after having entered into an *Egyptian* 'Temple, and looked about for the Idol of the Place, 'at length diſcovered a little Black Monkey 'enſhrined in the midſt of it, upon which he 'could not forbear crying out, (to the great Scan-'dal of the Worſhipers,) What a magnificent Palace 'is here for ſuch a Ridiculous Inhabitant!

'Though you have taken a Reſolution, in one 'of your Papers, to avoid deſcending to Particula-'rities of Dreſs, I believe you will not think it 'below you, on ſo extraordinary an Occaſion, to 'Unhoop the fair Sex, and cure this faſhionable 'Tympany that is got among them. I am apt to 'think the Petticoat will ſhrink of its own Accord 'at your firſt coming to Town, at leaſt a Touch of 'your Pen will make it contract it ſelf, like the 'Senſitive Plant, and by that means oblige ſeveral 'who are either terrifyed or aſtoniſhed at this por-'tentous Novelty, and among the reſt,

Your Humble Servant, &c.

ERRATA.

In Spectator CXXI. *Col. the firſt, line the* 18*th, for* Bale *read* Bayle. *In Spectator* CXXV. *Col. the* 3*d, line the* 35*th, for* People *read* Perſons. *line* 55, *for* Neutral Body of Forces, *read* Body of neutral Forces.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of June, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Boulter next the Roſe Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane; where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of March, Aprit and May.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Incomparable Perfuming Drops for Handkerchiefs, and all other Linnen Cloaths, Gloves, &c. being the moſt Excellent for that purpoſe in the Univerſe, for they Scent a whole Coat is perfumed with 'em, any more than fair Water, but are the moſt Delectable, Fragrant and Odoriferous Perfume in Nature and good againſt all Diſeaſes of the Head and Brain: By their delicious Smell, they comfort, ſtrengthen and Refreſh all the Senſes, Natural Vital and Animal enliven the Spirits, chear the Heart, and drive away Melancholy: They alſo Perfume Rooms, Beds, Preſſes, Drawers &c. &c. making them ſmell ſurprizingly Fine and Odoriferous. They perfume the Hands excellently, are an extraordinary Scent for the Pockets and in ſhort, ſo exceeding Pleaſant and Delightful, ſo admirably Curious and Delicate, and of ſuch general Uſe, that nothing in the World can compare with 'em. Sold only at Mr. Payn's Toyſhop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church yard near Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

That moſt excellent Remedy prepared by Mr. Parronet Surgeon, for Children in the hard Breeding of their Teeth, was uſed with all deſired Succeſs upon my Child violently afflicted from the ſame Cauſe. The Benefit it received by it being ſo Singular that I cannot but Recommend it to the Publick, as a moſt ſafe and certain Help in thoſe dangerous Caſes. Geo. Crochley, in Heart-ſtreet, Bloomsbury Market, Writing Maſter: The ſaid Medicine is ſold at 2 s. 6 d. the Vial, by the Author aforeſaid, in Dyot-ſtreet near Bloomsbury, Mr. Alcraft at the Blew Coat Boy againſt the Royal Exchange, Cornhil; at Paulſgrave Head Coffee Houſe without Temple Barr; and by Mr. Watkins Tobacconiſt againſt the Market, in King ſtreet Weſtminſter.

Juſt Publiſh'd very neat and Correct Editions of the following Books, viz.

The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Vols. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Vol's. tranſlated by ſeveral hands. Seneca's Morals tranſlated by Sir Roger L'Eſtrange. The Satyrs of Decimus Junius Juvenalis, &c. tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by Mr. Dryden and ſeveral other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Vols. conſiſting of his Plays and Poems. Poems on ſeveral Occaſions written by Mr. Prior. Paradiſe loſt, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Chriſtian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The three laſt are printed with a neat Elziver Letter in ſmall Pocket Volumes: All printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

The Retir'd Gardner, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, Ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin Garden, together with the Manner of Planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs, and Under-Shrubs, neceſſary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. In which is explain'd, the Art of Making and Diſpoſing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments uſually found in the moſt Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Tranſlation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To which is added, a Deſcription and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Reviſ'd, with ſeveral Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our Engliſh Culture, By George London, and Henry Wiſe. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine-Street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.